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In individual teaching, or in class teaching for that matter, too much emphasis can hardly be put upon the importance of providing an effective testing system. This is necessary for motivation as well as for the intelligent direction of the pupil's efforts in learning. If possible the pupil should know the gaps in his knowledge and the defects in his skill or habits before he begins to work on a given unit of material. Certainly he must be shown the degree to which he has obtained his objectives. Nothing can do more to assure a wholesome attitude and rigorous work on the part of any class.

The Sherwin Cody 100% Self-Correcting Course in English Language,¹ published by the Sherwin Cody School of English, Rochester, New York, provides these requirements in testing along with the materials upon which the pupil is to work. The course is issued in the form of pamphlets, each of which covers five days' work. These pamphlets are really exercise books, the five lessons making up a week's work distributed as follows: Monday, letter writing; Tuesday, spelling; Wednesday, punctuation; Thursday, grammar; Friday, conversation and reading. Each lesson sets up quite definitely certain objectives which the student is to reach in that lesson. These objectives are put before the student in an interesting way and are so arranged that the student may see for himself whether or not he has made progress.

Those who are interested in working out material for individual instruction either in connection with the regular school work or in connection with correspondence courses, will find Mr. Cody's course full of suggestions.

ERNEST HORN

A monograph on high-school commercial education.—The author of "A Survey of Commercial Education in the Public High Schools of the United States"² opens his monograph with a brief chapter emphasizing the astonishingly rapid increase of enrolment of students in commercial courses in the public high schools of the country, thereby calling attention to the need of the study of current conditions in commercial work. In the remaining chapters, four in number, he presents his interpretations of the responses from 136 high schools in 26 states to an extended questionnaire seeking information as to practices and policies in this field. Among the lines of inquiry were the following: the length in years of the commercial courses, the requirements and offerings of technical and non-technical subjects, the correlation of the social-business with the technical subjects, the differentiation of work for boys and for girls, the occupations for which the schools aim to prepare those enrolled, etc. Throughout his interpretations the investigator seems to be concerned—and very properly so—with the question of the extent to which the schools are breaking with their tradition of being "prima facie clerk mills," a tradition borrowed from private "business colleges," and moving instead toward the provision of curricula which look out for the student's

¹ SHERWIN CODY, *The Sherwin Cody 100% Self-Correcting Course in English Language*. Rochester, New York: The Sherwin Cody School of English, 1918.

² LEVERETT S. LYON, "A Survey of Commercial Education in the Public High Schools of the United States." *Supplementary Educational Monographs*, Vol. II, No. 5. Chicago: Department of Education, University of Chicago, 1919. Pp. x+62. \$0.65.

training along lines other than the purely vocational and conduce to his assuming in time duties on a higher occupational level within the commercial field. At few points indeed is the presentation of facts anything but consistent and comprehensible. An exception is the listing of commercial geography with the natural sciences in one chapter and in a succeeding chapter classifying it as a social-business subject. The facts set forth, the author's interpretation of them, and his related discussion merit the serious attention of all those who are in any way responsible for commercial education in our high schools.

L. V. K.

A new text for business-administration courses.—In his book entitled *Business Law*,¹ published by the Macmillan Company, Mr. Bays has endeavored to simplify the study of law. By thoughtful selection of cases for illustrative material he has produced a genuine contribution to the evolution of that better text which teachers of business law feel is needed. The book has more than the usual number of cases to support the legal principles discussed, and contains a series of questions at the close of each chapter which help to knit the ideas together. Happily, more than the ordinary amount of space is given to the subject of contracts.

Some of the topics, it would seem, might wisely be omitted. For example, would it not be well to exclude wholly such subjects as corporations and real property and thus make room for more adequate treatment of the more fundamental subjects? Contracts, principal and agent, negotiable paper, and sales alone seem to present a sufficiently formidable program for a course in business law. It is difficult, naturally, to strike a balance between a passing glance at the whole field of law and the critical analysis of a part intended to pay the biggest dividends, but the task is worthy of the serious attempts of our best text-writers. Certainly a somewhat definite idea of contracts and negotiable paper is to be preferred to a more sweeping attempt resulting in fuzziness of thought.

Compared with other texts, Mr. Bays' *Business Law* represents a forward step. It is not detracting from the merit of his work to say that some day a book will be written, not for students in schools and readers of law, but for plain boys and girls. This future text will be in clear lucid English, and will be supplied with plenty of illustrations of the principles involved, not in terms of A, B, and C, the parties to the proceedings, nor in terms of the *ultra vires* acts of the X corporation, but in terms of the every-day acts and the every-day life of the pupils to whom the text is addressed.

WILLARD E. ATKINS

Dooley's "*Applied Science for Metal-Workers*."²—The suggestion of the title that the content is of value only to the metal-worker is misleading, for this book is in fact an elementary treatise in the field of technology in general. It deals

¹ ALFRED W. BAYS, *Business Law*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. ix+311. \$1.40.

² WILLIAM H. DOOLEY, *Applied Science for Metal-Workers*. New York: Ronald Press Co., 1919. Pp. x+479. \$2.00.